

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 152

Expressing the sense of Congress that legislation containing a cross-border fee for vehicles and pedestrians entering the United States from Canada or Mexico is unwise and should not be enacted.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 1996

Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. LaFALCE, and Mr. METCALF) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that legislation containing a cross-border fee for vehicles and pedestrians entering the United States from Canada or Mexico is unwise and should not be enacted.

Whereas immigration reform legislation in the Senate (S. 269 of the 104th Congress) contains authority that would allow the unilateral imposition of a land border user fee for each vehicle or pedestrian entering the United States at border crossings from Canada and Mexico;

Whereas the imposition of any such fees will have seriously adverse consequences for border communities along both the northern and southern borders of the United States;

Whereas the United States recently enacted legislation implementing the North American Free Trade Agreement and has taken steps to liberalize trade and to facilitate the free flow of goods and services throughout North America;

Whereas the imposition of any such fees will hinder expanding commerce among the United States, Canada, and Mexico;

Whereas, according to an estimate made by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 70 percent of border crossings are made by those who cross over 100 times per year, and thus the imposition of any such fees would be, in actuality, an unreasonable and unfair regional tax on border crossing communities;

Whereas those who live in border communities often have little choice over whether to cross the border due to obligations to their employers and family;

Whereas many border States, which in some instances send most of their exports to Canada and Mexico, will suffer discriminatory economic burdens resulting from the imposition of such a fee; and

Whereas the fee is not supported by the Governments of Mexico and Canada and their people, and therefore will likely respond with the imposition of a retaliatory land border fee of their own: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that cross-
 3 border entry fees on vehicles or pedestrians seeking to
 4 enter the United States from Canada or Mexico, such as
 5 those proposed in immigration reform legislation in the

1 Senate (S. 269 of the 104th Congress), are economically
2 unsound and are likely to result in retaliatory fees by the
3 Canadian and Mexican Governments, and therefore such
4 fees should not be imposed by the United States Govern-
5 ment.

